

REMEMBERING THE MASSACRE AT
SREBRENICA

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr OLVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of one of the greatest tragedies of our lifetime. Today marks the 12th anniversary of the massacre in Srebrenica during the Bosnian war. On July 11, 1995 more than 7,000 Bosnian Muslims were systematically murdered by Serbian military and paramilitary forces in the largest massacre of civilians in Europe since World War II.

Beginning in April 1992, aggression and ethnic cleansing perpetrated by Bosnian Serb forces, while taking control of the surrounding territory, resulted in a massive influx of Bosnians seeking protection in Srebrenica and its environs, which the United Nations Security Council designated a "safe area" in Resolution 819 on April 16, 1993. Despite the visage of international protection, thousands of Muslim men and boys were slaughtered before the eyes of the world as part of a deliberate campaign of ethnic terror and genocide.

As we look back and remember the massacre in Srebrenica, it is not enough simply to mark its anniversary on the calendar. While we mourn the victims of these shocking events, we must also look to the present and to the future. When confronted with the horrors of the Holocaust the world proclaimed, "Never Again." Since that time we have witnessed the genocide in Rwanda, Cambodia, and, as we are reminded on this date, Bosnia. Today we are faced with an ongoing genocide in Darfur. Once again, thousands of innocent people are being attacked, raped, and murdered. And once again, it is not enough to stand by and express regret as these events unfold before our eyes. On this somber anniversary, let us affirm our commitment, not merely with words but with deeds, to the pledge "Never Again."

INTRODUCTION OF THE KENDALL
FREDERICK CITIZENSHIP AS-
SISTANCE ACT OF 2007

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Kendall Frederick Citizenship Assistance Act of 2007, which will assist over 68,000 non-citizens serving in the U.S. military in their quest to become citizens of the United States. Their sacrifice on behalf of this Nation is great; therefore, those who protect our country as non-citizens should undoubtedly be able to quickly bypass unwarranted red tape when applying for citizenship.

This legislation honors the memory of 21-year-old Army Reserve Spc. Kendall K. Frederick, a resident of Baltimore County and native of Trinidad who was stationed in Iraq when he made the decision to become a U.S. citizen. On October 19, 2005, after trying for more than a year to become a citizen and having his application delayed at least five times due to miscommunication and misin-

formation in the processing of his fingerprints, Kendall had no other choice but to travel with a convoy to a base to resolve this issue. Unfortunately, he was killed on the way by a roadside bomb, never realizing his dream of becoming an American citizen.

Spc. Frederick died while trying to show his gratitude to this country, to a Nation that finally showed its appreciation far too late by awarding him citizenship posthumously. Surely, it did not have to be this way. This legislation corrects this wrong by removing unnecessary hurdles that our non-citizen armed service members have been required to undergo in applying for citizenship along with ensuring that they are provided with assistance from the military and immigration officials, especially during their deployment. Specifically, the Act would assist our non-citizen men and women in uniform on the pathway to citizenship by making the following needed adjustments:

requires the Department of Homeland Security use the fingerprints taken by the military at induction for citizenship applications;

requires non-citizen military service members to submit their citizenship applications within 24 months of enlistment;

requires the Department of Homeland Security to create a dedicated customer service 1-800 phone line for service members and their families to call with questions;

requires the Department of Homeland Security to promptly update and revise its written and electronic citizenship application, instructions and guidebook within 30 days of any material change in the law or regulation; and

ensures executive agency accountability to Congress by requiring a GAO report documenting how the Department of Homeland Security currently handles military service members' citizenship applications as well as the training that DHS personnel receive regarding military citizenship applications.

Non-citizens are 5 percent of the total active duty U.S. military service members. According to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), between September 11, 2001 and December 2006, 84 non-citizen armed services members (including Spc. Frederick) killed in action have been awarded posthumous citizenship. For their sacrifice, these non-citizens more than deserve not to be entangled in overly burdensome bureaucratic red tape.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support our troops by supporting this bill.

SWEARING IN OF POLICE OFFICER
JOANNE MCNELIS INTO THE
MALVERNE POLICE DEPART-
MENT

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero and a trailblazer from the 4th Congressional District. Joanne McNelis will make history when she is sworn into the Village of Malverne's Police Department.

Her actions will reverberate long after her service has finished. This is a historic moment. She will become the first female police

officer in the 80-year history of the Village of Malverne. Those that follow after her will have a hole in the glass ceiling that Joanne McNelis created. Joanne's decision could not have been easy. It is never a simple matter to do something that had long been the purview of men. She has demonstrated significant courage—physical and emotional.

The daughter of one New York City Police Officer and the wife of another, law enforcement has always been in her blood. Joanne McNelis continues a long line of devoted public servants. She will risk her life to protect and serve her fellow citizens of Malverne. Her willingness to sacrifice her comfort and safety will make her village a safer place.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the outstanding courage and the extraordinary achievement of Joanne McNelis. Together with her family and friends, I applaud Joanne for her dedication to her community and her sense of duty. I wish her continued success, and am honored to have her as a member of my district.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONOR-
ABLE JO ANN C. STEVENSON'S
RETIREMENT AS CHIEF UNITED
STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
MICHIGAN

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer recognition of the Honorable Jo Ann C. Stevenson's retirement as Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Michigan. Judge Stevenson was the first woman in the Western District of Michigan to be appointed to the Federal bench.

Judge Stevenson graduated cum laude from the Detroit College of Law in 1979. Upon graduation, Judge Stevenson clerked for the Honorable Vincent J. Brennan in the Michigan Court of Appeals and later for the Honorable Cornelia G. Kennedy in the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. While employed in the corporate insolvency practice group at the firm of Hertzberg, Jacob, and Weingarten in Detroit, MI, she was appointed a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge on December 23, 1987. In the course of her career, Judge Stevenson has authored several hundred opinions, of which approximately 95 percent have been affirmed on appeal.

During the time Judge Stevenson was on the bench, she also taught Bankruptcy Reorganization and Debtor/Creditor Relations at her alma mater. She has given numerous presentations and speeches and participated in many panels, including conferences for the Federal Bar Association Bankruptcy Seminar, the Conference for Chief Bankruptcy Judges, the American Bankruptcy Institute, the Grand Rapids Bar Association, the University of Michigan Institute of Public Policy Studies and the Sixth Circuit Judicial Conference.

Judge Stevenson has also been an active member of the Women Lawyer's Association of Michigan, the National Association of Women Judges, the Grand Rapids Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the American Inns of Court, the Joint Steering Committee for the Gender Fairness Task Force